



Matthews State Forest

July 2023 – June 2024 Hunting Seasons



**No Sunday Hunting
Archery Only**

Firearm hunting is only permitted on the limited lottery Youth Hunt Day on September 30, 2023. To be eligible for the Youth Hunt, you must attend the DWR workshop on September 16, 2023, and pre-qualify with your firearm. Contact [DWR](#) or visit [Matthews State Forest webpage](#) for more details.

Matthews State Forest will be closed to the public during the Youth Hunt on September 30, 2023.

Big Game Hunting Seasons

Bear	Archery: Oct. 7 – Nov. 17 Archery Only during Muzzleloader: Nov. 11 – 17 Archery Only during General Firearm: Dec. 4 – Jan. 6	Archery Only during Youth/Apprentice: Oct. 14
Deer	Early Archery: Oct. 7 – Nov. 17 (either sex full season) Archery Only during Firearm: Nov. 18 – Dec. 2 (either sex full season) Archery Only during Late Archery: Dec 4 – Jan. 6 (either sex full season)	Youth/Apprentice: Sept. 30 (This will be a lottery hunt. Firearms will be permitted, and hunters must attend the Sept. 16 workshop to be eligible.)
Turkey	Fall: Archery: Oct. 7 – Nov. 17 Archery Only during Firearm: Nov. 22 and 23, Dec. 4 – 30, Jan. 13 – 27 Archery Only during Youth/Apprentice: Oct. 14 and 15	Spring: Archery Only during Firearm: April 13 – 27 (½ hour before sunrise until noon) April 29 – May 18 (½ hour before sunrise to sunset) Archery Only during Youth/Apprentice: April 6

Small Game Hunting Seasons (Archery Only)

Crow	Aug. 19 – March 15 (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)	
Groundhog	Continuous Open Season	
Grouse	Oct. 28 – Feb.10	
Rabbit	Nov. 4 – Feb. 29	
Squirrel	Fall: Sept. 2 – Feb. 29	Spring: June 1 – 15

Furbearer Hunting Seasons (Archery Only)

Bobcat	Archery: Oct. 7 – 31	Firearm: Nov. 1 – Feb. 29
Coyote	Continuous Open Season	
Opossum	Oct. 15 – Mar. 10	
Fox	Red Fox: Nov. 1 – Feb. 29	Gray Fox: Jan. 1 – Feb. 29
Raccoon	Firearm: Oct. 15 – Mar. 10	Chase: Continuous Open Season

Trapping Seasons

Beaver/Mink/Muskrat/Otter/Weasel	Dec. 1 – Feb. 29
Bobcat/Fox/Opossum/Raccoon	Nov. 15 – Feb. 29
Coyote/Nutria/Skunk	Continuous Open Season